# Communiqué

**5 April 2022**

Following a competitive recruitment process, the Disability Council NSW (the Council) welcomed seven new members in late 2021. The new members, appointed for a four year term, have a wealth of knowledge and experience and include:

* Jane Spring (Chair)
* Julie Charlton
* Caroline Cuddihy
* David Raphael
* Emily I’Ons
* Mark Robinson SC
* Gail LeBransky

The new members join four existing members of the Council:

* Dr Jill Duncan (Deputy Chair)
* Jake Fing
* Paul Zeller
* Casey Gray

For more information about the members, please visit the Council’s [website](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/inclusion/advisory-councils/disability/overview/chapters/council-member-profiles).

New council members were inducted in February 2022, followed by a strategic planning day to determine the Council’s priorities for 2022-2023.

The first formal meeting of the Disability Council NSW for 2022 was held on Tuesday 5 April 2022. The meeting was chaired by Dr Jill Duncan.

The Council welcomed the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Minister for Disability Services and Michael Tidball, Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice to the meeting to share their vision for disability inclusion in NSW.

The report from the Disability Council’s Employment Forum, held in November 2021, was tabled. The report includes a series of recommendations. These are:

* Recommendation 1: The NSW Government, through the Public Service Commission, commits to the development and universal adoption of a Workplace Adjustment Passport across the public sector.
* Recommendation 2: In consultation with DENConnect, which represents the Disability Employee Networks of each Department, the NSW Government through the Public Service Commission develops mandatory training on accessible and inclusive recruitment practices for all people involved in the recruitment process.
* Recommendation 3: Each NSW Government agency establishes a Disability Employee Network.
* Recommendation 4: Mandatory training be delivered to the entire NSW public sector, through the Public Service Commission, with targeted training for hiring managers and recruiters.
* Recommendation 5: Each NSW Government agency should identify internal disability champions in their organisations who can provide information and advice on recruitment matters.
* Recommendation 6: Through training, policies and workplace culture, each NSW Government agency ensures that employees with disability feel comfortable disclosing their information and requesting workplace adjustments, in line with workplace health and safety requirements mandated by the NSW Government.
* Recommendation 7: The NSW Government encourages universal design principles in workplaces to promote accessibility for all employees.

The Council remains committed to promoting the inclusion of people in NSW through delivering on our responsibilities under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014.*

Over the coming months the Council will finalise the 2022-2023 Annual Plan identifying actions to drive progress in five key areas:

* Accessible communities
* Ensuring the voice of people with disabilities is heard
* Employment
* Justice and rights
* Housing

The Council will next meet in June 2022.

Jane Spring

Chair, Disability Council NSW